

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

1. (Previously Amended) A method for providing a multicast service from a macrocell or a microcell to a mobile station in a mobile communication system having a hierarchical cell structure in which at least one microcell area overlaps one macrocell area, the method comprising the steps of:

entering, by the mobile station, to the microcell and requesting a multicast service to a base station controller;

determining, by the base station controller, a data rate of the multicast service requested from the mobile station; ~~whether a measured carrier to interference ratio (C/I) in the macrocell where the microcell area overlaps satisfies a required C/I for a specific multicast service; and~~

receiving by the mobile station the specific multicast service from a base station that controls the macrocell, if the measured C/I satisfies the required C/I

measuring, by the mobile station, a carrier-to-interference ratio (C/I) in the macrocell where the microcell area overlaps, and transmitting the measured C/I to the base station controller;

comparing, by the base station controller, the measured C/I with a C/I required based on the determined data rate;

ordering, by the base station controller, the mobile station to perform a handover from the microcell to the macrocell, if the measured C/I is higher than the required C/I.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein if a service that the mobile station wants to receive is not-a the multicast service, the mobile station maintains an access

to a base station controlling the corresponding microcell or ~~a~~ the base station controlling the macrocell.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein even when the measured C/I satisfies the required C/I, the mobile station selectively receives the multicast service from the macrocell and the microcell based on a service state of the microcell to which the mobile station belongs.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein when the measured C/I does not satisfy the required C/I for the multicast service, the mobile station maintains an access to the base station that controls the corresponding microcell.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein when the mobile station receives the multicast service from the macrocell, the mobile station measures the C/I in the macrocell area at selected periods, and determines whether the measured C/I satisfies the required C/I for the multicast service, thereby determining whether to perform a handover to the microcell.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein when an area of the macrocell is divided according to available data rates and the mobile station enters the divided area of the macrocell, the C/I for a data rate of the corresponding area is applied based on whether a multicast service is provided to the mobile station.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein a data rate which becomes a criterion for the area division is one of 384Kbps, 144Kbps, 64Kbps and 12.2Kbps.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein different data rates are provided based on distance from a center of the macrocell.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the base station can request a particular mobile station to measure the C/I at a particular time or by periods, and compares the measured C/I with the C/I for a particular service to determine whether to perform a handover.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)